

[22 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Grounding of 15 Years Old Aircrafts

3110. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to acquire new aircraft for Indian Airlines, Air India and Alliance Air in the next three years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ground aircrafts of more than 15 years of age;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(e) how many aircrafts of more than 15 years of age are flying at present and in what way these aircrafts are said to be of airworthiness;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines are planning to take few aircraft on dry lease. Indian Airlines is undertaking a Techno evaluation study of aircrafts for augmentation of capacity and replacement of A-310 and B-737-200 aircraft currently.

(c) to (e) Both Air India and Indian Airlines are having 76 and 21 aircraft respectively which are more than 15 year old. No life span is specified for aircraft. The operation of an aircraft may continue subject to its airworthiness being certified by DGCA.

Cancellation of Alliance Airlines flights

† 3111. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that the eight flights of Alliance Airlines from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi had been cancelled on 22nd July, 2000;

(c) if so, what were the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some pilots had refused to take-off the outdated aeroplanes of Alliance Airlines; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YEDAV): (a) and (b) A Boeing aircraft of Alliance Air met with an accident at Patna Airport on 17.7.2000 resulting in shortage of one aircraft. The schedule of Alliance Air have, thus, been revised. Accordingly, the flight on the sector Delhi-Jaipur-Jodhpur and return to be operated on 22.7.2000 got cancelled on 21.7.2000.

Due to technical failure, one more aircraft was grounded on 21.7.2000, which resulted in cancellation of flights, both incoming and outgoing, on three other sectors on 22.7.2000.

((c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Contract Employees in Alliance Airlines

3112. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister at CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to examine the service of millions of the Pilots, crews and Ground staff of Alliance Airlines who are employed on contract basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when?

(c) whether the aircrafts in the Alliance Airlines are very old and need repair/upgrade to minimise life risk of passengers and so survive in competitive market; and

(d) if so, the steps taken so far to replace the old aircrafts and to make the said Airlines more profitable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Presently no such proposal is under consideration in Alliance Air.

(c) and (d) The average age of B-737-200 aircraft in the fleet of Indian Airline & Alliance Air is 18.9 years. These aircraft are maintained in accordance with the procedures prescribed by the manufacturers and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation. Only such aircraft as are certified airworthy by the Director